(c) Periodic Open House meetings are organized by the Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs (EPCES) for redressal of grievances of developers of SEZs.

Connectivity among BIMSTEC countries for Trade with Bhutan

2587. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to improve the connectivity among the BIMSTEC countries infrastructure is required to be created to facilitate trade with land locked Bhutan; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to improve the connectivity with Bhutan and by when connectivity is likely to be created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To improve the road connectivity with Bhutan, the Phuentsholing-Thimpu Highway is being doublelaned in Bhutan with the assistance provided by the Government of India in the 9th Five Year Plan of Bhutan. Also, RITES Ltd. is conducting a feasibility study on the establishment of five rail links (mentioned below) on India-Bhutan border as below:

1. Hasimara (West Bengal)-Phuentsholing (Bhutan)-18km
2. Darranga (Assam)-Samdrup Jhonkar (Bhutan)-60 km
3. Kokrajhar (Assam)-Gelephu (Bhutan)-70 km
4. Banarhat (West Bengal)-Samtse (Bhutan)-16 km
5. Pathsala (Assam)-Nganglam (Bhutan)-40 km

Special funds under IBEFT

2588. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether special fund was created under the head "India Brand Equity foundation Trust (IBEFT) with one time grant of Rs. 50 crore;

(b) if so, the details of the same;

(c) the amount spent so far from the above Trust/Fund; and

(d) the amount available with the above Trust/Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The India Brand Equity Fund Trust (IBEFT) was registered on 11.7.1996. The IBEFT was created with a grant of Rs. 50 crores by the Ministry of Commerce. The name IBEFT was changed to India Brand Equity Foundation Trust and the change was registered on 10.11.2003.

(c) The entire grant amount of Rs. 50 crores is invested in various approved Securities/Scheduled Banks. Out of interest income, expenditure of Rs. 7.93 crores has been incurred during 1996-97 to 2004-05. Besides, Rs. 16.34 crores was advanced as loans on usual financial terms.

(d) Rs. 167.07 crores as on 31.03.05.

Bhopal Engineering Cluster

†2589. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal of Rs. 68.77 crores for Bhopal Engineering Cluster, Govindpura, Bhopal for creation of facilities of engineering industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal for infrastructure upgradation at a cost of Rs. 68.94 crores for Bhopal Engineering Cluster proposing *inter-alia,* Tool Room, Testing Laboratory, Design Development Centre, Precision Heavy Machining Facilities, Hot Dip Galvanizing Plant and Technology & Training Centre has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh for sanction under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS). Since the entire 10th Plan allocation of Rs. 675 crores for IIUS has already been committed for various projects sanctioned so far, it has not been possible to sanction this proposal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.